



In the Library

AN ADDRESS

TO

LORD R. GROSVENOR,

ON THE

FALLACIES AND FATALITIES

OF

HOMŒOPATHY.

BY

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"The world is but a great masked ball, where fools disguised under the laughable names of eminence and highness figure.—*Voltaire*.

"Formerly, all the great men in this country had a retainer, called a fool, but now they dispense with a *sinnelos mensch*, and play the part themselves, to the thinking of all sensible men much better than any fool could have done."—*Selections from the Letters of the Dutch Ambassador, at the Court of Charles II.*—[By the Author,]

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XABONAR CABEZA DE ASNO, PERDIEMENTO DE XABON."
CERVANTES!—*EL TRATO DE ARGEL.*

TO LORD ROBERT GROSVENOR.

I take the liberty of addressing myself to your lordship, not from any hostile feelings towards the system which you have done so much towards upholding by the countenance of your noble name, or from any wish to constitute myself a champion of allopathy, but simply from a desire to enable the public to judge, how far it deserves to be trusted in the cure of disease. You may, perhaps, demand by what right I presume to take upon myself to place homœopathy in the light which it should be viewed: to such a natural question I can only reply by stating, that I do so,—not from books, but from actual and careful observation of its effects in disease, extending over a period of two years; not in this country alone, but, also, in France and Germany,—and by carefully comparing the results obtained with those yielded by other modes of treatment.

About twenty years have elapsed since homœopathy was first introduced into this country: its introducers have made fortunes, and those who have since taken it up have met with more or less pecuniary success. Some have written books to prove, that "out of nothing, something can come." Some have compiled them, taking the matter, word for word from "Copeland's Dictionary," adding in, when speaking of the treatment, the homœopathic tinting. One man has thus made a book, a kind of medico-cookery effusion, in which he tells the reader, how beef tea, caudle, and puddings should be made, and has garnished it, with a host of wonderful cures effected on imaginary Captains, Reverends, &c. In a foot note the comical rogue tells his readers, that eighteen nails make *quite as good broth* as half a chicken. Others less fortunate in their book-making powers, have had them written or translated

hence, we see Manuals, Parents' Guides, &c, daily advertised; the self-styled authors being as guiltless of paper blackening as the most juvenile lambkin in the three kingdoms. There may be no royal road to learning, but there is to be thought so, and men who, in writing their names are often at a loss to know whether they are spelt with a "u," or a "w", stand forth as authorities, and tell their readers that homœopathic remedies destroy worms most effectually at the full of the moon and that a strangulated rupture is far more easily reduced by infinitesimal doses, than by the most skilful manipulation.

We pride ourselves on being more enlightened than our forefathers; we laugh at their ignorance and superstition, and we look with pity mingled with scorn at the Mahometan priest, who dips the paper on which some edifying passage from the Koran is written into water, and gives it to the sick person,—at the Turkish mother, who hangs an amulet around the neck of her child to protect it from the evil eye,—at the Mexican Indian, for praying and sacrificing to the devil, that he may do him no harm;—yet there are persons in Great Britain not among the ignorant and low, but amidst the learned and high, who believe, that an inappreciable dose of medicine can act with more certainty at one time than another,—that a disease can be cured by sniffing for a moment at a bottle containing an appropriate medicine; that the troubled motion of an injured woman's tongue can be calmed by an infinitesimal dose of a medicine, which if given in an allopathic one would set it clacking until death should apply the break, by stopping her breath. Men of England, blessed with that sweet anti-calmanthraic talkative wife—how have you sinned your mercies, in letting such an inestimable blessing remain untried. Those of you who daily wish your spouses in Abraham's bosom, can by this wonderful medicine, for wonderful it is—have them like John Van Butchell's wife, preserved by great Hunter's art—

"Dumb, yet full of spirits!"

Another man writes a book, and one of high authority, and gravely brings forward the following as an illustration of the truth of the law of

similars :—“That when your horse shies, if you strike him, the last fright cures the first.” This may be and no doubt is a good illustration. Yet, I cannot but think, it would have been more appropriate, had the mind of the writer carried him back to his infantile days, when naughty nurse to cure his naughtiness, whipt him, and thus, by giving him something to cry for, cured him quite by the law, “what will produce a disease, will cure it.” The outburst following the application being nothing but the *aggravation* which always follows homœopathic remedies, when acting beneficially. The same gentleman, a few years before, wrote a book in which he termed St. John Long, a man-slayer,—yet in the same work, he countenances pouring a kettle of boiling water over any person’s legs who may have chanced to swallow an over dose of narcotic.

My study of homœopathy has thrown me somewhat amongst its practitioners, and much behind the scenes, and it has taught me—

“Qu’ un medicin bien ignorant,
Puis fare un Homœopath tres savant.”

I have further learnt, that these men will, with the greatest coolness, allow their patients to linger on month after month, while they give globule after globule, and when the sufferer gets well under nature’s kind care, cry out :—“there is an instance of the triumph of homœopathy.” Had this case been under an allopath, it would have certainly proved fatal ;” when in fact had remedial agents capable of assisting nature in the efforts which she establishes to effect the cure of disease been resorted to, the person would have been as well in a few days, as it had taken weeks, or perhaps months to effect.

I have known people consult a homœopathic practitioner, with the strictest regularity for twenty and, in one case, even twenty-four months for very slight affections, of which they have been subsequently cured in a few days under rational treatment. I am acquainted with a lady who was treated for fourteen months, for an ulcer of the tongue. She was globulised, and placed on a diet, by which she was reduced to

such a state of emaciation that she was at last unable to walk. The removal of a tooth, by the advice of Sir B. Brodie, cured the ulcer in a week, but she has never recovered the shock which her constitution received.

Some of these men practise on others, that, which they hesitate to do on themselves. I have heard them inveigh against this medicine and that medicine, yet at the very time, they have been under their influence. A short time back, I heard a person state to a patient, that mercury was one of the most murderous of drugs, that a grain once introduced into the body, poisoned it for ever; yet his breath was redolent of its fumes, and his teeth waved like an Indian fence in a gale of wind. I have letters by me from one of these men, in which he speaks of the results of the allopathic remedies given him, "results which no homœopathic medicine could have yielded."

The late Dr. Curie is an excellent example; he practised homœopathy for years, yet, in his own case, he had recourse to allopathic measures.

There are others who while their fears are unexcited trust to globules, but the moment they are aroused, fall back on large doses of medicines, and give them according to allopathic principles, but under homœopathic guise.

Others, again, from the very onset give in the form of pilules, the most powerful and uncontrollable drugs—such as strychnine, morphine, &c., and in most powerful doses. It is but a short time back that the Prince of Canisaro was destroyed in this manner. He was to take three pilules at intervals of some hours; having omitted the first dose, he said to his attendant: "as I am going out this evening, I will take all the medicine at once, as it cannot do me any injury." He did so, and was almost immediately afterwards seized with symptoms of poisoning from strychnine, and died in a few hours. The following episode came under my notice some few months ago:—A single female was delivered, how I must leave the reader to guess—some symptoms set in which gave the practitioner some anxiety, and he called in a friend.

Homœopathic remedies one after the other were tried in vain ! Death was prognosticated—a clergyman was sent for and the mother and friends stood around expecting her death. At last at the suggestion of an old woman, who chanced to be present, that her bowels only wanted opening—a black draught was given her; but the dose from their ignorance was so large, and its effects so powerful, that after giving her every homœopathic remedy they could think of in vain, they had recourse to an astringent in allopathic doses to check it.

There are some men in the kingdom, who practise every thing likely to bring money to their pockets: at one time, they are allopaths, at another homœopaths, hydropaths, or any other paths. A Dr. Lawrie, of Dunstable, is an example of this class of men. A short time back his name appeared in connection with a quack medicine—now he is an any-path a patient may choose to be treated by. As an example of his treatment—a homœopathic patient would have a globule at night, and a dose of salts and magnesia in the morning *to carry it off*, if these failed, a course of Coffin medicines, consisting of Indian tobacco, vomits, and cayenne pepper would be next tried, if the sufferer was not literally confined, or the disease proved rebellious, a course of mercury would be then resorted to, and salivation induced.

As a hydropathist, his practice differs somewhat from that adopted by Preisnitz. I find by a letter published some time back in one of the Bedford Papers, giving an interesting description of his establishment, that he prefers using the same water for a great number of years, occasionally, adding a little charcoal to destroy the odours arising from the putrefaction induced by the admixture of discharges from ulcers, skin diseases, &c., &c. No one will doubt, but that the remedial power of the water is very much increased, by this addition; and that the doctor would do well to advise, that the sewage water of large towns, should be used medicinally before applying it to land, or allowing it to be wasted.

Some time back an ironmonger, from the vicinity of Bishopsgate

Street, placed himself under the care of one of these men. Diarrhœa consequent on the treatment set in ; to check which he was dosed so largely with wine, that he died from the effects, for no other cause could be discovered at the after death examination. Not satisfied with thus summarily dismissing the poor man to his last home, he *attempted* to perform some operations on the dead body, anxious to make up for some deficiencies in his education, and mangled it in the most horrible manner.

There are some men, I do not doubt, who practice homœopathy fully convinced of its efficacy, or at least if not, they guard the secret of their disbelief so closely, that the most observant have not an opportunity of doubting their orthodoxy. The men who do this are what the world calls religious,—or rather what the Germans term pious ; a much better term as it signifies a person who has only the outward or visible signs of sanctity. I may cite the name of Dr. Jennings as an example : this gentleman wrote a book on the “advantages of homœopathy,” in which he says ;—“*Providence seems to work specially for homœopathy and men of the most philosophical and practical minds are thunderstruck with the powerful results obtained from it.*” He was a pious man, or in Exeter Hall language, one of *christian principles* !! and made a considerable sum ; but the money having come, conscience came also ;—a most troublesome poking thing, always popping in just as a man is made comfortable for life,—and he felt uneasy, for instead of giving homœopathic medicines, he had treated his patients with nothing but coloured water. He therefore called his friends together, and made a kind of general confession, and as none of those whom he had allowed to die happened to be present, he, of course, obtained general forgiveness, and thus having struck a balance between his pocket and conscience, opened a new account.

Turning to the founder of homœopathy, Hahnemann, with whose private character, which, unless his disciples belie him, was not of the best description, I have nothing to do. Still when we see those who

hout the aid of his ideas, erroneous as they are—could never have ped to gain a morsel of cheese to savour the dry crust which in air and honourable struggle they could not have earnt—we cannot be struck with the resemblance which they bear to the man who kicked down the plank by which he had passed the abyss. With a moral consciousness of their own insignificance, his followers seem ever to seek rise by his disparagement, forgetting that in sinking him they sink themselves. It cannot therefore, be expected, that if thus free with the father of their system that they could spare each other. Hence one set terms the other, *bärtige alle frauen in hosen*,* while individually, they stigmatise each other as humbugs, quacks, and mix, and sulphur men.

The clique, which is represented by the “Homœopathic Times,” takes every opportunity of lauding Dr. Henderson; I presume, on the good old mutual Scotch principle; “scratch me and I’ll scratch you;” and depreciating that eminent man, Dr. Joseph Laurie, whose extensive mind can only be likened to his own door step, newly whitened. No doubt, they flatter themselves, that by telling the fifty readers of this paper, that a chemist’s assistant cooked up his Parent’s Guide,” from Dr. Bull’s “Advice to Mothers,” they could quash him. But surely before holding him up to the scorn of the public, they would have done well to remember, that whether he was or was not indebted to others for the different works which bear his name, that he was one of their own body and one of its most *luminous* members. Is he the only man of the homœopathic school who has made a name by the labour of another’s brains? I could name several, but what good would it do—it is much better to leave them alone. I, for my part, if I had an enemy would not wish for a sweeter revenge, than to see him placed in a position he was not fitted to fill, it would yield me far more pleasure, than to see his back curried every day for twenty minutes with a moderately soft brick-bat,

* Bearded old women in breeches.

Dr. Dudgeon does not see why such a man as Dr. Epps, who is a mere itinerant lecturer, a kind of Katerfelto, without caravan and all, should be considered as a member of the great homœopathic body. Dr. Epps gives the retort courteous, by saying—"that there are people who would lecture if they could; but as they do not possess the requisites, they send old women, from door to door, to cry out; Oh, what a clever man is Dr. D——."

But to return to Hahnemann. It is well known at least in Germany, that before he discovered the law of similars curing similars, he was the proprietor of an all-healing remedy—the chief ingredient of which was borax, a substance of no remedial power. I have one of the papers which accompanied this medicine now before me. It promises wonders—"cures the gripes—prolongs life to beyond one hundred years—prevents the flesh from drying up, and the hair from becoming grey—makes the old man of seventy brisker than the youth of seventeen—the barren fruitful—and the pains of birth easy." It is, in fact, far more difficult to say what it did not, than what it did do.

But it proved a failure, from what reason I do not know; perhaps, because the stock-fish brain of cousin Michel could not value the inestimable blessings thus offered to him for a few *groschen*. Somewhat later, I believe, he became an *urinal caster*, and told what disease afflicted male and female by inspecting their water. The following anecdote I give on the authority of Dieffenbach. A Bauer brought his wife's water to the doctor that he might prescribe for her; while inspecting it, he managed to learn that she had fallen down stairs:—putting down the flask he said boldly: "she has fallen down ten pair of steps." "No," said the man, "she has fallen down sixteen." But said the sharp-witted doctor "is this all the water?" "No." "That accounts for it; you have left six steps in the pot." The man of course went away deeply impressed with the doctors' acumen.

If we follow him in his career, we find him constantly drawing largely on the gullibility, as well as on the pockets of those who consulted him ; for it was one of his maxims, and one which he never hesitated to avow, "that persons never valued medical men, unless, they paid largely for their services. He invariably promised a cure ; if they did but make the medicine sufficiently long ; for like Sangrado, he held that persons died not of the disease, but, because, they had not taken his remedies a sufficient length of time—hence, the lame were promised the agility of monkeys, the blind the keensightedness of hawks, and the barren the fecundity of two-year old sows.

This system of holding out hope has been largely made use of by his followers. They seem ever to say, "what is it to us, whether a person is leaving one part of his family in affluence, and the other in beggary, what are the orphan's or the widows' tears, what the mother's agony, when she hears that the child she brought with pain into the world has died, and she not near, if we but get our fees. We have an example, in the case of the late Lady Denbigh, in the bulletin of Drs. Dunscombe and Curie, published at the moment when she had fallen into a state of exhaustion after convulsions, and which exhaustion was but the harbinger of approaching dissolution. "Lady Denbigh from the remedies given had no convulsions since two o'clock." In a case of cancer of the womb, which was under the late Dr. Curie's care for eight months, though, he saw the patient daily sinking, yet he continued to hold out hopes of recovery, and, even, within a few hours of her death, took her hand, and said, "have good cheer, madam, we shall yet dance a jig together." This lady was the wife of a Mr. Moir, a gentleman well known in the Commercial Road. I should have hesitated to mention names ; had the case not been repeatedly spoken of in public by Dr. Moir. His words to a homœopathic practitioner, who wished to see one of his houses, were : "no sir, I would rather burn it to the ground, than it should be inhabited by one of your principles.

A homœopathic practitioner was lately called into a young person,

in the last stage of consumption, after Drs. Watson and Williams had given, as honest men, an opinion that the case was hopeless;—he on the contrary, said, that instead of being hopeless, it was in a most favourable way; that not a trace of disease existed; that there was nothing in fact, beyond what a month's residence in the country and a course of homœopathic medicines would set to rights. With the greatest difficulty he was got into the country, for he had not quitted his bed for a month. The result was unfortunately quite contrary to that prognosticated; he had but just reached his destination, when he died, no doubt from the fatigue. The same man was called in by a fellow-practitioner to a case of strangulated rupture. It was one requiring an immediate operation,—he advised the exhibition of some homœopathic remedies, which, he said, he had never seen fail to reduce the bowel. The time lost in trying these remedies cost the patient his life, for although the operation was most skilfully performed by Mr. Paget, she died in eighteen hours. A few months back, a person who had been suffering for some time from disease of the kidney, was induced to place himself under the care of one of these men. "He placed in my hands a paper containing some powder, which had been given him, which was to be dissolved in a pint of water, and a dessert spoonful taken three times a day." Under the microscope I found it to consist of the very fine powdered sugar sold by confectioners, and which was as generally the case, adulterated with fine clay, but not a twentieth part a drop of fluid had ever been in contact with it. The direction accompanying it would have been most amusing, had not the case been one to draw tears rather than smiles. "The perspiration, weakness, and diarrhœa of which you complain in your letter, and which you think arise from your disease gaining ground, are highly favorable, as they show the beneficial action of the medicine is set up, I can only repeat what I before said, "persevere, and you are sure to do well. For the weakness, you may take *ten drops* of brandy in a wine-glass of water three times a day."

The following case I give on the testimony of Mr. Jones, of Up

apton. "A very delicate boy hurt his knee, little notice was taken of it the time, as it was but trifling. Not getting better, it was shown to C. Chelius, of Heidelberg, who gave such an unfavorable opinion of its nature, that he was brought to England. The late Mr. Liston saw the knee, and pronounced the disease to be malignant; immediate removal of the leg offering the only chance of saving life. A few weeks later he was shown to Mr. Key, who expressed a fear, that amputation would be then of no use, but that it was the only resource. Afterwards he was taken to a homœopathic physician, who immediately pronounced it curable. "Arnica," he said expiating on the beauties of homœopathy given allopathically will produce such a disease, and will cure it in small doses; I have cured scores of like cases. The poor child's friends were of course delighted—they quite worshipped him.

Day after day passed away, the child got weaker, the swelling of the knee became more prominent, and at last broke, discharging some blood and sanious matter. He was delighted to see this, rubbed his hands, and cried out, "soon well, soon well; just what I wanted;" but a dirty fungus soon produced, from which blood and sanious matter exuded, and the child sank. When informed of the death of his patient, he folded his hands, turned up his eyes, rolled his head, and said, "the will of the Lord be done." "Amen,"

I. But what will the Lord's will be, with regard to such a sanctified and conquered sinner, who carries His name on his tongue, with much the same intention that a snail carries its domicile on its back, namely: for his convenience?

Hahnemann claims to have been the first to have experienced on himself the action of medicines, and Englishmen repeat this, forgetting, that the honor belongs to a Dr. Alexander, of Edinburgh, who published a series of experiments performed upon himself in 1783. So important were these experiments considered that the book was almost immediately translated into German, and copious extracts from it appeared in all the journals of that country. The translator in his preface observes: "these experiments of Dr. Alexander made at so great a risk

to his life, opens quite a new field for estimating the action of medicines on the body in health."

Dr. Cullen in his "Materia Medica," which Hahnemann, translated, frequently speaks of these experiments; and if Hahnemann's *Fragment de Viribus Medicamentum Positivis Sive in Sano Corpore Humano Observatis*, vol. i., page, 47, be referred to, it will be found minute the bosh in italics, that the description is word for word, like that given by Dr. Alexander, of what was experienced by himself. A few pages further on he speaks of Dr. Alexander's experiments, but in a few lines only and in such a manner as to lead the reader to suppose that they confirmed his own. The brief pages of a pamphlet do not admit of my entering into the subject of his so-called experiments on himself. *He never performed one experiment on himself*; those given, are extracted from other works, garbled and twisted to disguise them. He was too great a sensualist to be capable of undergoing the pain which they would have entailed. It is further said, that Hahnemann was first led to test the action of medicines, by an observation in "Cullen's Materia Medica," on the power which bark possessed, of producing symptoms resembling ague.

Now Cullen makes no such remark; although, he alludes to bark in the second volume of his work, no less than five different times; nor in his published lectures, although fifteen pages, are devoted to remarks on its action in disease.

Murray, a later writer than Cullen, observes—"that bark may be given with advantage in remittent fever, (a fever quite distinct from ague,) when the intermissions are obscure, rendering them more distinct." Surely no one can see in this passage any resemblance to the one stated to have given origin to the *idea* of similars curing similars.

I will but cite the following instances of Hahnemann's originality, and then proceed to the results obtained by testing his system in disease.

John Hunter, 1786.

1. All remedial agents act by producing a state of excitation, which displants, the one already existing.
2. No two diseases can exist in the body at the same time, the stronger always displaces the weaker.

Hahnemann, 1800.

1. Medicines can only cure disease, in proportion, as they possess the power of changing the state of the system.
2. When two diseases of a dissimilar nature, meet together in the body, the stronger always repulses the weaker

The idea of the aggravation which medicines set up, he took from Dr. Meyserbach, a noted German quack, of the last century.

In 1832, homœopathy was introduced into the military hospital of St. Petersburg ; but the results were so unfavourable, that after a fair and impartial trial, it was abandoned as worthless. In January, 1833, the Academy of Medicine of Paris, received a letter from the minister of public instruction, stating that he had received an official demand from the homœopathic practitioners of Paris, for permission to establish a dispensary and hospital ; and requested them to form a committee, to examine the subject ; not as a medical question, but as a question connected with the benefit which would be likely to accrue to the sick, by the establishment of such institutions. In accordance with this request, a commission was formed for the purpose of testing its practical value. Ample time having been allowed for this purpose : the subject was resumed on the 17th of March, when Mons. Adelon opened the proceedings, by remarking, that the subject of establishing the institutions named by the minister in his letter, was of such great importance to the working classes that it called for their deepest consideration. Mons. Andral then stood up and stated that he had made a series of the most rigorous and exact experiments, on from one hundred and thirty to one hundred and forty cases *in the presence* of the homœopathists of Paris. The medicines used in these experiments had been prepared by M. Guibourt, (homœo-

pathic druggist), and the rules laid down by Hahnemann had been most carefully followed, and the strictest diet observed, yet he had not met with one case where benefit had been derived from the treatment. The experiments were conducted in the following manner :—

First. Myself and a great number of other medical men, both, gave the bark to persons in health, and took it ourselves without the slightest approach to anything like ague; some of the most sensitive had headache.

Secondly. Sulphur was given and taken in the same manner, for a considerable time, but nothing like itch could be induced.

Thirdly. Arnica was tried, but not the slightest feeling of contusion or tearing, said by Hahnemann to follow its use was produced.

A great number of other medicines were tried with a like unsuccessful result.

“I have treated,” he said, “cases of every description, curable by medicine, homœopathically, and failed, after a fair and unbiassed trial and have subsequently cured them by allopathic measures.”

Dr. Curie in his work on homœopathy states, that “the above experiments were made, and that no homœopathist was present to witness them.”

Andral distinctly states, “that they were made in the presence of the homœopathists of Paris. Further, the daily papers of that time frequently notice the experiments which were then being carried on by him. Surely the word of such a man as Dr. Curie, who had so little faith in homœopathy as to fall back upon allopathy, when he was himself sick, cannot for a moment weigh against that of Andral, one of the most distinguished men of the day.

Mons. Bally, physician to the Hotel Dieu, next stood up, and said, I wrote some months back to Drs. Curie and Simon, and stated, that I was quite at their service to test the value of homœopathy. During five months these gentlemen have treated a great number of cases in my wards. A book has been kept, for the purpose of registering the cases, and the benefits derived from the treatment. But during the whole of this period, not one has received any benefit, and so convinced was Dr. Simon of its inutility, that he withdrew. The register was then produced for inspection.*

Dr. Double then cited a number of cases, in which results equally unsuccessful followed.

The following is an extract from the letter drawn up and sent to the minister. "We have subjected homœopathy to a rigorous examination. We find in it such a tissue of absurdities, which in the sight of every man at all conversant with science must at once condemn it, and which would not be an objection to it in the eyes of the ignorant and credulous."

Mr. Brodrib in his pamphlet on homœopathy, remarks, "I attempted in vain to obtain any beneficial results from homœopathic medicines"

Clot Bey, (*Compte Rendu des Travaux de l'École de Médecine Abouzabel*,) says, a German doctor made his appearance in Egypt, and placed homœopathy in such a favourable light before Mehemet Ali, that the subject of sending a number of students to Europe, for the purpose of studying the system was seriously entertained, and an agreement was about to be entered into to pay him a large sum to accompany them. In the mean time, a number of cases were placed

* I had hoped to have been able to place an analysis of this interesting specimen of homœopathic practice before the public in the present pamphlet; but from the failure of a friend to complete its examination in time, I must defer it until the next.

at his disposal, for the purpose of testing its efficacy. He selected nine cases out of forty, for this purpose, and of the very mildest description. These were placed in a separate apartment, under the surveillance of a commission. At the end of some months, they reported, "that the results of the treatment, although the cases were of the very mildest form, instead of being favorable, were quite the reverse, three of the number remaining uncured. They were ultimately cured by the usual treatment in a few days. An equally unfavourable result attended his treatment of several persons of high rank; and he was, at last, driven out of the country, covered with contempt.

A few years ago, Dr. Pointe, professor of clinical medicine, at the hotel Dieu, of Lyons; in consequence of some observations made in public by the homœopathic practitioners of that city, "that the treatment had only to be tested to supersede every other mode of practice, invited Dr. Guerard, one of its most distinguished practitioners, to test its efficacy on any of the cases in his ward; stipulating only, that the visits should be made at a fixed time of the day, so as to enable all those who took an interest in the investigation, to have an opportunity of being present. He selected fifteen out of the thirty cases in the ward, as those most likely to be benefitted by the treatment. They consisted of cases of fever, erysipelas, bronchitis, jaundice, diabetes, &c. The visits were made, and the medicines given in the presence of sixty students, and several practitioners of the town interested in the results. At the end of seventeen days, not the slightest amendment which could possibly be attributed to the medicines was observed, and this Dr. Guerard readily admitted. During this time it became necessary in three of the cases, to have recourse to allopathic treatment, and this with the doctor's consent, he being present at the time, the patient's lives being in the greatest danger. At the end of this time he retired of his own accord.

Subsequently he attributed his failure to the odour which pervaded the hospital, and which destroyed the activity of the medicines!! H

severely blamed by his fellow practitioners, for having exposed homœopathy to a public test. From these remarks we must, therefore, conclude, that homœopathy is not for the treatment of those who go in carriage and on foot, but for those who rustle in silks and ride : and that its practitioners think it incapable of bearing public examination, the only means of testing its efficacy.

During the late visitation of cholera in Paris, a number of beds in the hospitals of St. Louis, and La Salpêtrière, were placed at the disposal of the homœopathic practitioners of that place ; but every one of the cases treated by them died.

It may, perhaps, be demanded, how I can account for the success shown in the tables, published by the homœopathists, of the results of their treatment of this disease. I am at a loss to do so. But I do think from what I know of their mode of making up statistical returns, and from the cases not being in places where their truth can be ascertained, that I should be wrong in saying, that they are false. If homœopathy possessed any real value, in the treatment of this disease, I should have been too happy to have demonstrated it, by sending one of their number to combat it, during the late visitation at Newcastle. Ariosto, it is, I believe, who remarked, “that it was easier to build palaces on paper, than with stones.” Such may be said of the case with homœopathists,—they find that cures on paper, are easier made than on the sick.

When Lola Montes reigned over the Bavarian monarch, a large sum was granted for the purpose of establishing an hospital. After her expulsion, an order was issued by the government to state, “that the results obtained from the homœopathic treatment of diseases in the rich and poor houses were so unsatisfactory, that it should be discontinued until further notice.

I will proceed to say a few words on the value of homœopathic asser-

tions. I take the following case from the Report published by Dr. Black and Russell, on the Edinburgh Homœopathic Dispensary.

“William Heslop, of 28, Jamaica Street, applied to the dispensary on the eighteenth of February, with a bad hand, from which he had been suffering for two years, and for which he had been advised to undergo an operation. By the nineteenth of July, the hand had quite healed, and he went to the harvest, and has continued, up to the present time, able to follow his occupation as a day labourer.” Here was a case cured after allopathic treatment had failed. What more could be wanted to convert every person in Edinburgh.

The writer of the able review of this Report, in the “Edinburgh Monthly Medical Journal,” says, “I went accompanied by Dr. Duncan and MacLagan to call on the man; — *His hand was not used, neither had he been to the harvest or to work, as he was incapable of using it.*”

A physician practising homœopathy at Versailles, wrote to the editor of the “Gazette Médicale,” and stated that the most wonderful effects had been produced by the exhibition of some globules to some of the patients in the military Hospital of Val de Grace.

This led to an inquiry, and the following letter was received from the surgeon in chief of that hospital, in which he says:—“after some inquiry I have discovered the cases stated to have derived so much benefit from the globules; *I beg most positively to state that they were no better after their exhibition.*”

Dr. Lawrie, of Dunstable, has published far and near the case of a woman of that place whom he cured of consumption: yet she never had a trace of this disease;—let any medical man examine her; she is well known, and resides in Britain Street.

Dr. Sympson, of Edinburgh, relates the following curious circumstance

person sent me a case of globules, but having no use for them, it fell to the hands of my little boy, who amused himself by emptying them to a heap, and then refilling the bottles. Dr. Henderson happened to call and he put the case into his pocket. Some weeks later I met him when he told me that he had been lately trying the effects of homœopathic medicines, and that he had cured several cases with the globules taken in my house.

Dr. Glover in a Lecture on the "fallacies of homœopathy," published in the "Lancet," makes the following statement :—" I am acquainted with a large wholesale druggist, (the name may be learnt by applying to the editor of the "Lancet") who sends out sixty pounds of globules weekly, and so convinced is he of the humbuggery of the system, he never takes the trouble to saturate them." I am convinced that globules sent out by two homœopathic druggists, one in Great Russell Street, and the other in Princes Street, are often so badly prepared, that you may examine a bottle purchased one day and find an excess of the saturating substance, while not a trace can be discovered in one purchased at another time; the same remarks apply equally to those sent out by a Manchester house."

Dr. Henderson has published a series of cases to illustrate the efficacy of homœopathic treatment; but, what kind of cases are they? Why, only those of common sore throat and diarrhœa, magnified by the homœopathic microscope, which converts mole-hills into mountains, into most grandiloquent names and fatal diseases in "Cullen's Nosology."

Merely the observation of a certain kind of treatment in one or two cases, does not enable a man to judge of its power in upwards of five hundred. I do not hesitate to say, that Dr. Henderson, has not *acted as candid and true lover of his fellow creatures should*; that he has not showed before the public *all* the cases which he has treated homœopathically, and that *he cannot show before a scientific commission that*

it possesses any of what he is pleased to term "superiority over allopathic treatment."

Vienna it is well-known is the stronghold of homœopathy, and Dr. Fleischman, the miniature "Jove," who directs the homœopathic thunder. By his statistical reports, English homœopaths swear—dare but to cast a doubt on the success of their treatment, and they are thrust in your face as incontestable proofs of the superiority of their mode of treatment over that of the old school.

People blessed with an infinitesimal dose of sense, would have been satisfied by sending for their pseudo M.D. diplomas to dear ideal Vaterland, and would have attempted to prove the superiority of the treatment at home.

The hospital to which this gentleman is the physician, is under his sole control and direction. He has, however, to make monthly reports of the cases treated, and on their favourable character depends the existence of the establishment, for should they be otherwise, it would be at once suppressed. The fact of a man having the entire control of an establishment, whose interest it is, that it should appear under the most favorable aspect;—that he has the power to send patients cured or uncured; that none are admitted without being first seen by the assistant physician, to learn, whether they are likely to be benefited; and that he can give any name he may think proper to the diseases under which they labour, must, at once, convince every commonsensèd person, how easily favourable statistical reports can be manufactured.

If the reader will take the trouble to compare the list of the diseases published in these reports, with those issued by any foreign or English hospital, he cannot but be struck with their paucity. Every medical man who has walked through this hospital, has remarked, "that only certain diseases seem to be admitted."

I cannot do better than quote from Dr. Balfour's able Report on this hospital; merely observing, that my observations during a visit

Vienna, bear out those made by him. "Cases are frequently sent out when in a state of temporary improvement, and on applying for readmission, they are refused, unless sure to be benefitted, and this only to keep up appearances, and prevent remarks being made.

A boy was admitted suffering from general dropsy of the body, and of the chest, after scarlet fever. After being in the hospital five weeks, he was discharged, the swelling of his limbs having somewhat diminished. He applied next day for readmission, but was refused on the plea, "that all the beds were occupied," though such was not the case. I was assured by a physician of the General Hospital, that it was a common occurrence for cases of this kind sent out in this way, to come to that hospital, where they were cured by allopathic measures."

Yet Dr. Fleischman in his reports states, that nine out twelve cases of this disease admitted were cured. Not one of the cases of this disease admitted, during the doctor's attendance, was benefitted. I saw myself three cases of this disease—one died, and the other two were in the hospital when I left, no better than when they were first admitted.

"The secret of Fleischman's apparent success, I am convinced," continues this gentleman, "depends on the fact, that he possesses the power of admitting and dismissing patients as he thinks fit, and giving any names he pleases, to the diseases under which they labour."

He states "that of nineteen cases of inflammation of the lungs admitted, three of the number died. Whereas during the same period, under Dr. Skoda, in the General Hospital forty-five cases of the same disease were admitted, of which number only three died." Thus shewing a superiority of nine per cent. in the cases treated by allopathy; and this with the cases admitted into the Homœopathic Hospital, being chosen as those *most likely to be benefitted by the treatment*. I saw ten cases during the time I spent there, two of the number died, and many of the others were so slight as scarcely to deserve the name of inflammation of the lungs.

I have the history of twenty-six cases of this disease treated homœopathically in this country, out of which number eight died. And I have also the notes of fifty cases of the same disease treated on rational allopathic principles, and of this number four only died.

If any work on homœopathy is examined the following table will be sure to be found to illustrate the superiority of homœopathy over allopathy in the treatment of this disease.

HOMŒOPATHIC.			ALLOPATHIC.		
	Cases.	Deaths.		Cases.	Deaths.
Fleischman.....	299	19	Grisole	304	43
			Briquet	346	85
			Skoda	19	4
About one case in fifteen proving fatal.			Edin. Infirmary....	222	80
				<hr/> 909	<hr/> 212
			About one case in four proving fatal.		

Such proofs as the above seem overwhelming, and such they would be were they true; but they are not. In the first place, Dr. Fleischman's table is not worth a straw, for under the head of inflammation of the lungs, he includes coughs, and colds; and in the second, the cases given in, the table stated to be allopathic, are false.

For instance, three hundred and four cases are quoted from Dr. Grisole "Sur la Pneumonie," as having been treated by himself. But this is not the case, he merely cites them from an old work, by Leroux, "Cours sur les Généralités de la Médecine," tom. vi. which work consists of a series of reports of cases treated in the Charité Hospital of Paris, for nearly half a century preceding 1824 at a period when the treatment was most defective, and the hospital in the very worst condition, being badly ventilated, densely crowded, and filthy in the extreme. I have only to mention, that the lamps were

for some time, fed with human fat instead of oil ; and it will be readily understood in what state it must have been. But even under these unfavourable circumstances, if a series of cases of the same average age as those of Dr. Fleischmans ; namely, twenty-one years be taken, it will be found that the mortality was only ten-and-a-half per cent. ; whereas under his treatment it was as high as fifteen. Dr. Grisole gives the following results of a number of cases treated by different physicians, quite distinct from each other, which were passed over in silence, by the makers of the homœopathic tables.

	Cases.	Deaths.
Drs. Rilliet and Barthez in - - -	116	8
„ Rufz and Gerhard - - -	40	1
Dr. Bouillaud - - - - -	22	1
„ Laennec - - - - -	28	1
„ ^e / _f Trousseau - - - - -	58	2
„ Bang - - - - -	54	2
„ Renf - - - - -	94	5
	<hr/> 412	<hr/> 23
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Being an average mortality of four per cent.

Sir James McGregor reports, that out of four thousand and twenty-seven cases of this disease treated during the peninsular war, two hundred and eighty-five died—about seven-and-a-half per cent.

The average annual mortality in St. Bartholomew's and University College Hospitals, varies from five to seven per cent.

Next on the list stands the name of Dr. Briquet, who it is stated treated three hundred and forty-six cases, and that of this number eighty-five died. The paper from whence these cases are said to be taken, was published in the *Archives Générale de Médecine*, 1840. *But he has not given any cases from which statistics could be formed.*

In the same table, nineteen cases are stated to have been treated by Dr. Skoda, of Vienna, of which number four died. These cases are represented as having been published in the "Oesterreich Med. Jahrbucher, for 1843. I have carefully examined this work both before and after this period, and, also, the other German journals, without being able to find any such cases. Had they been recorded, they could not have failed to have attracted general attention, from the high estimation in which whatever emanates from this eminent man, is held.

Dr. Balfour states in his report, that the deaths from this disease, under Dr. Skoda's treatment, was only six per cent. I have a letter in my possession from my friend, Dr. Knur, of Cologne; who was attached for some years to Dr. Skoda's service; and he informs me, from a careful examination of the hospital books, that the average mortality for some years, both before and after 1843, never exceeded eight per cent.

I have not been able to examine the Reports of the Edinburgh Infirmary, as no dates have been given, but they are no doubt equally false.

If the comparative value of the different modes of treatment in this disease be examined, we shall see of what value homœopathy really is.

" In the year 1840, says Grisolet, " I chose a number of cases to test how far nature could with rest and diet effect a cure in this disease. The cases, eleven in number were of a very slight description, and they all came under observation before the fourth day. In nine of them the disease had passed into the second stage, (when no air enters the lungs), in two it had not passed the first stage, and never did.

" The expectoration retained the characteristic appearance of this disease up to the ninth or tenth day. The pain in the side continued much longer, although it was mitigated as early as the fourth or fifth; but

never ceased before the seventh ; and in some instances lasted up to the twentieth, twenty-fifth, or twenty-seventh day. The lungs did not become fit for respiration up to the eighteenth, twenty-second or thirtieth day."

I had an opportunity some time back of witnessing under Biet, a series of cases treated without medicine ; diet, and rest in bed being the only measures adopted.

The cases were twenty in number, five of them died, the remaining fifteen were not in a fit state to leave the hospital, in the very oldest forms under twenty-three days ; the average time being forty and thirty-five days, and four of the cases did not leave until the forty-fifth and fiftieth days. A great number of the persons became subsequently affected with consumption, and I have observed the same results follow in a great number of the cases treated homœopathically.

Every person who attended the service of Mons. Magendie, some perhaps, must recollect his treatment of this disease, by strict diet alone ; his enthusiasm on the subject of his success : that, although, as no doubt great, it was not equal to that of the other physicians of Hotel Dieu, who, in addition to diet, had recourse to treatment. The mortality in his cases being seven per cent greater ; and those which did recover being much longer in the hospital—varying from ten to twenty days, according to the severity of the disease.

It becomes a question of the most vital importance to the laboring man, on those earnings a large family is often dependant, whether he should under treatment a fortnight or three weeks longer than he should but with the idle and the affluent it is of little importance.

My observations on homœopathy in this disease, and comparing it with a rational mode of treatment, enables me to draw the following conclusions ;—

That cases of partial inflammation of the lungs, which in the first

or congestive stage, would if treated homœopathically, aided rest and diet, otherwise the disease would extend and pass into the other stages and prove fatal, take from seven to ten days can be cured by rational treatment in as many hours.

2. That cases of partial inflammation, which have passed into the second stage, (when that part of the lungs affected is useless for breathing,) which would under homœopathic treatment take from fifteen to thirty days; can be cured, by rational treatment, in a period varying from seven to fourteen days, according to the time when the cases come under treatment.
3. That where both lungs are extensively affected, homœopathic treatment even when given in the first stage cannot check the disease and it will be sure to prove fatal in from seventy-six hours to eleven days; whereas, I have never seen it prove fatal under rational treatment in the first stage; and even when the second stage has set in, the disease has been repeatedly checked and the patient saved.

From the foregoing remarks every person cannot but see that in the treatment of disease it is equal to doing nothing. With a few words on the action of medicines, I must close for the present the subject.

1. *Bark*,—Homœopathists assert acts beneficially in ague by the power it possesses of producing a similar disease. But does it produce one symptom of ague? For instance, if bark or quinine is given to two persons, one with a full quick pulse, the other with a weak slow one, in both it will be accelerated, but in the first a transient headache, and perhaps sickness will be induced; whereas the other will feel stronger, both bodily and mentally. Now in ague severe cold shivers are first experienced, lasting from half-an-hour to an hour or more, followed by intense burning heat of the skin which is again succeeded after some time by profuse perspiration.

we examine a person suffering from ague, when the cold fit is coming on, we find that as the blood leaves the surface of the body, the deep seated organs, but particularly the spleen becomes enlarged. If a dose of quinine in a soluble state be given, the spleen, although two or three times its usual size will in the course of a few minutes be felt gradually diminishing, and the blood will gradually return to the skin, and the fit will be cut short. A patient suffering from this disease was eight months in Dr. Fleischman's ward, and went out as bad as when he entered, yet he might have been cured in as many days. Andral tried the treatment in vain in this disease. It may be, perhaps, demanded how I account for the action of this medicine in this disease. In a very simple way—it acts by its power of stimulating the non-striated muscular fibres, which forms the walls of the blood vessels, and the substance of the spleen, causes them to contract, and thus re-establishes the equilibrium of the circulation.

Mercury.—This medicine acts according to homœopathists, by the power which it possesses of inducing an ulceration like that which secondary syphilis sets up.

the action of this medicine on the body is traced, we find that its first effect is to increase the whole of the secretions; particularly that of the saliva if it is continued, accompanied by swelling of the glands of the under part of the jaw;—spongy and tender state of the gums; and if carried too far, sloughing. This effect is set up by its entering into the system, and combining with the albuminous tissues and acting as an irritant, causes a rapid wasting of the tissues of the body.

The secondary poison of syphilis, it is well known, shows itself by ulcerations in the throat; but no practitioner has ever yet seen mercury when given for the cure of other diseases excite sore throat. I have carefully watched the effects of this medicine, and

have never seen it, and am firmly convinced that there is no such disease as that which some men, in their ignorance, please to term "mercurial sore throat." Every man who has seen much of syphilis, must have observed in the delicate and scrofulous, that this kind of throat occurs in those who have not taken a particle of mercury. I do not doubt, but that this medicine, given improperly, has much to do with this peculiar appearance of the throat, from the effects which it produces on the constitution, when a scrofulous tendency exists.

It is very common to hear homœopathists exclaim, "that the disease has nothing to do with the law. Now there happens to be a very common disease amongst the children of the poor termed, cancrum of the mouth and which bears a close resemblance to the symptoms induced by mercury; so much so, that it is common for charges of having recklessly given this medicine to be brought against medical men; yet the exhibition of mercury in a small dose in this disease, which if the law of similars curing similars was true should cure, would be followed by the most direful results. In scurvy, another disease, which bears some resemblance to the effects produced by mercury; and in a disease of the kidneys where the gums become spongy and tender, its use would nearly certain destruction.

3. *Rhubarb*.—Is a medicine brought forward as a proof of the truth of the law of similars. "A medicine which acts as a purge, and yet stops purging." But on what principle does it stop purging? Why, on precisely the same principle that castor oil or any other purgative would, by clearing away the cause which sets off the diarrhœa. But in diarrhœa arising from checked perspiration, increased secretion from the pancreas; or ulceration of the bowels, it is of little or no service. Do opium, and acetate of lead, which act so magically in these last forms of diarrhœa

so, by any power they possess of inducing like diseases? Certainly not, any more than if a man had had his leg broken by the kick of a horse, it would be cured by submitting it to be kicked by a foal! or that living on beef or mutton would convert into an ox or a sheep!

The editor of the "Homœopathic Times," tells the readers of this paper, "that the day will come, when homœopathy will supersede all other systems." One has this idea to console himself with, that the editor is not a Mother Shipton, or any other prophetic hag, who skims over the sea in a sieve, or nags through the air on a broom-stick,—shutting up the half-way house to the grave in Bloomsbury Square, does not look as if his prophecy would come to pass.

4. *Belladonna*.—This medicine was set forth by Hahnemann, in a paper published in *Hufeland's Journal für die Gesundheit*, for 1800; not in open manner, but as a great secret of which he was the sole discoverer, as a specific against scarlet fever. The medical man, who is a real lover of this kind, has no secrets; and the fact of his making it such, at once, stamps the man as a quack; Jenner, the discoverer of the influence of ether and chloroform, and a host of others, did no such thing. A few months later, two men quite unknown to each other, stepped forward and published the name of this remedy, and to stamp it as it really is, worthless. The name of one gentleman was Jany, his paper appeared in band iv., of the *Salzburg Gazette*; the other's Salzer, and his paper is in, *Reich's Anizgen*, for 1801.

Some years ago, I had from being connected with a large institution, opportunities of testing, whether this medicine really possessed any power of preventing persons taking scarlet fever, but it had not the slightest.

This medicine when given in an appreciable dose, produces difficulty

in swallowing. On this effect, from difficulty of swallowing existing in, hydrophobia, it has been put forth as a specific in this disease; but we might with equal reasons assume, that a hair sticking in the throat, because, it prevents a person from swallowing would act as one. I have the history of twelve cases of this disease, where belladonna was fairly tried, and failed.

Homœopathists remind one strongly of the philosophical tailors of Laputa, who worked only on abstract principles, holding the humble craftsmen, who wrought by measuring their customers, in extreme contempt. Their constitutional tailoring being equally as bad fitting as the suit which those philosophical schneiders made for Mr. Samuel Gulliver. But with this difference that their misfits unfortunately are not found out until too late; perhaps only at the moment, when death enters and encircles the confiding person's waist with his iron ice-like arm, and dances him off to eternity.

Trusting that your lordship will overlook many inaccuracies, both of style and expression, from the hasty manner in which the matter has been thrown together.

I beg to subscribe myself

Your lordship's most humble servant,

CHARLES EVANS REEVES, M.D.

London, May the First, 1854.

Note. A friend has suggested that I have done wrong in not publishing names. This most excellent advice I should have been most happy to follow if I had been a rich man; but as I do not happen to possess any of that material in which most people think the summum bonum of human happiness consists; I should feel under a deep and lasting obligation to any of the homœopathic gentlemen who have made fortunes who would step forward and guarantee the law expenses, which

such a proceeding might incur—damages, I am sure, there would be none, for no jury would award them beyond a farthing.

To turn to the allopathic side of the field, where nineteen twentieths of its practitioners, like the moss between their door steps, are but merely vegetating, would be both cruel and unbrotherly; for we are told, to “take not from friends, but from those that are against us.

I do assure the reader, in my anxiety to find a hole, for the law like an old barn is full of them, by which I could escape the pains and penalties which it inflicts; read a multiplicity of books on the subject, from “Blackstone,” down to that useful and erudite little *brochure*, which should be in every man’s hands, lately published by that rising member of the Home Circuit, Mr. Teazelem, entitled “How to Beggar your Neighbour and Ruin Yourself,” but to no purpose. The law says, and it is not to be twisted either up or down, inside or out like one of the elastic facial resemblances of Lord Brougham. “That injuries affecting a man’s good name, no matter whether he deserves such injuries or not—if he does, so much the greater reason for an action, as tending to his damage and derogation with those who know him not.”

The homœopathists of Great Britain, must, therefore, rail at me. I cannot silence them by exposing them to the public. But that day will come before long.

Some of them, I know, will call me a bigot, and my little bantling a mass of allopathic rhodomontade; others will say, he only wants to be known that he may get a practice, and thinks that he will best attain his object by attacking us, while another sarcastic globule of sugar of milk will cry out—“Pooh, pooh, some poor half starved, shirtless allopathic chick, just issued from some half-addled university egg or other.” I am not ashamed to confess, that I am a poor half starved devil, and from the very reason that I have not embraced homœopathy.

Poor as man may be, there is a very sweet pleasure in being able to lay down, although the couch may be of wood, and feel that he has not failed to do all that science has placed within his reach for those who have entrusted their lives to his care. It is true, that we march to a knowledge of disease in the midst of pain, which we are often unable to relieve, and see disease strike down young and old, and our knowledge, but as a straw against it. But, nevertheless medical men, ere they speak against the art which they practise, should remember, that it is their ignorance and not her defects, which makes them less successful.

It would be wrong of me to seek for gratitude from the hands of the homœopathists—men do not like their faults exposed, advantageous as it is sure to prove to them. I have, therefore, only this idea to solace myself with, that the good wishes of our friends, and the maledictions of our foes, alike aid us on our journey towards paradise.

Corrigenda.—At Page 9, by mistake I have quoted more from the "Homœopathic Times" than I had a right to do. I am only indebted to that Journal for the *expose* of Dr. Laurie's cooked-up plagiarism of Dr. Bull's Advice to Mothers.



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